241 subsist on short rations, being fed on 4800 million kg. of fodder, instead of 12,000 million kg., which quantity is said to represent its normal requirements. The inability to keep up her position as a grain exporting country, constrained Bulgaria likewise to undertake the transformation of her agriculture and to give an impetus to fruit growing and the cultivation of industrial and oleaginous plants. These latter kinds were cultivated during the period 1908/12, in the mean, on an area of 25,759h. a year, while by 1933.[1] This had increased to 154,000 hectares, which were apportioned among the following plants:

	Area in thousand of hectares		Yield in thousand of quintals	
	1933	1934	1933	1934
Rape seed	0.6	16.085	7.543	10.7
Sunflower seed	81	105.123	929.832	980.
Tobacco	23	19.869	175.140	149.1
Cotton { Seed	20	38	89.607	89.923
Cotton { staple			38.940	50.923
Hemp { seed	53	5 668	18.291	23.2
Hemp { filaments			22.938	31.5
Sugar beet	11		1856	
Various	13		58	

In the latter figure of 58,000 quintals are included 42,296 quintals of sesame (1934: 27,214) 7,309 quintals of aniseed (1934: 14,178) Flax: 2,798 quintals seed and 864 filaments (1934: 8,556 seed and 5,76 6filaments). Opium poppy seed 1,993 quintals (1934: 3,693). Pea nuts 2,862 quintals (1934: 8,514) and a quantity of soya beans, with which 15,500 hectares have been sown in 1935. Cotton seems to be the most promising among the industrial plants, and it is hoped that eventually sufficient will be grown to provide all the

[1] For 1935 the area devoted to them has been increased to 241,777 hectares while the area sown to cereals had decreased to 2,419,377.

cotton needed for local consumption and for the spinning of yarns up to № 24 counts. In 1932, 3,756 tons of raw cotton was imported, plus 6,355 tons of yarn up to 24 s. It is reckoned that the annual requirements in cotton and cotton yarn amount to 12,000 tons and that in a couple of years it will be possible to devote some 60,000 hectares to cotton growing in order that Bulgaria might dispense with the importation of cotton, cotton yarns up to 24s and most cotton textiles as are made from such yarns. It is believed that by a rational utilisation of the existing 82,514 spindles and 3,218 cotton weaving looms, no new machinery will be required. The cotton grown in Bulgaria is a short staple variety of an average length of staple of 21 millimetres and 0.0218 millimetres in thickness and in this it resembles Indian cotton. The yield per hectare is 200 to 220 kg. which also corresponds to the mean Indian yield of 86 lbs to the acre. It is a much more remunerative crop than cereals for the government fixed a buying price of 30 to 34 leva[1] per kg, which allows for a return to the farmer of 200 kg × 30 leva = 6000 leva, plus 400 kg. of cotton seed × 2 leva = 800 leva, or a total of 6,800 leva per hectare, from which some 700 leva should be deducted for the cost of ginning and 50 kg for seed × 2 leva = 100 leva, leaving a revenue of 6,000 leva per hectare, which on an average is three times as much as that from most cereal crops[2]. The cultivation of cotton however, can only be carried out in certain regions, mainly in south Bulgaria, and entails more labour than cereal

[1] The price of foreign cotton at about 6 per lb. if imported in Bulgaria would correspond to 36–38 leva a kg. for its cost would have been increased by 50% to 55% owing to the premium which would have to be paid on foreign currency and other expenses.

[2] The gross revenue per hectare of the various plants, based on the prices prevailing during 1932 was calculated to be: wheat: 2561 leva, maize: 1629 sunflower seed: 2096, Cotton: 5147, Flax: 8552, Hemp: 4355, Sugar beet: 10,066.

248 cultivation, but the peasant does not grudge this extra work, for the smallholder has plenty of time at his disposal. Prof. Dolinski in fact showed that small farms up to 1. 9 hectares absorb only 61.4 working days of a man, and 28.3 of a woman, and farms of 2 to 9.9 hectares require the labour of a man for 213.1 days and that of a woman for 86.2 days, so that the farmer is usually glad to find extra occupation when this is likely to bring some recompense.

248 288 The other, textile plants grown in Bulgaria are flax and hemp. Of the latter as much as 2,320,000 kg of filaments were produced in 1934 and it is hoped that even a larger quantity could be locally utilised, if, as is contemplated, hemp were used in place of the 1,200,000 kg of jute yarns and fabrics which are imported. It is affirmed that there are 3367 spindles and 459 looms which could be adapted to the manufacture of textiles from hemp and that they would suffice for this purpose. Over a million kg. of hemp is used annually for the manufacture of cordage and string, and a smaller quantity for hand-woven fabrics. It was stated that there is a surplus of about one million kg of hemp left over from the 1934 crop, and that the production for 1935 will be curtailed. The cost of hemp is reported to be 17 leva per kg and the yield 800 kg and over of filaments and seed per h.

249 258 The oleaginous plants cultivaled are rape seed, mainly exported, and sun flower seed, which is absorbed locally for the production of comestible oil, which has now completely replaced the oils hitherto imported. The oil obtained from sun flower seed il also utilised for industrial purposes and the residue, in the form of seed oil cakes is exported as cattle food. In 1933 of the total crop only 10,768,175 kg., or about 10% was exported, the balance having been bought up by the local oil-crushing mills, while the quantity of seed oil cake exported rea-